



# COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA

## Annual Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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# Executive Summary

Legislation establishing the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) went into effect on July 1, 2013. This Commission brings together leadership from all three branches of state government. The CISC organizational model consists of eighteen CISC members, a chairperson, an executive committee, and several standing committees and task forces.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, the CISC concentrated on developing a three-year strategic plan and an operational plan; promoting information sharing; obtaining information from agencies and experts; and studying and making recommendations regarding legislative assignments.

The CISC three-year strategic plan recognizes four strategic priorities: (1) Child Safety and Services; (2) Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth; (3) Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and (4) Educational Outcomes. Each priority has a corresponding task force and a strategic goal. The CISC's operational plan revolves around its internal organization and communication. The operational plan includes five priorities: (1) Organizational Structure; (2) Task Force Assignments & Workflow; (3) Communication & Collaboration; (4) Policy Recommendations & Legislation; and (5) Outcomes & Impact.

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1369 required the CISC to (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections. The CISC voted to endorse the following recommendations: (1) Representation on local community corrections boards should be increased to support juvenile justice interests, or counties should be given the authority and discretion to establish separate juvenile community corrections boards; (2) Funding should be increased or new funding authorized from the Department of Correction that is specifically targeted for juvenile justice beyond the current grant funding level. Such allocations should not reduce or impair the funding of adult community corrections; and (3) The state should provide significant fiscal resources to the local juvenile courts and counties to develop and sustain innovative, evidence-based juvenile justice programs including the dual status initiative.

The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force worked with stakeholders from CISC member agencies and other subject matter experts to complete an *Indiana Youth Information Sharing Guide*, a comprehensive 204-page white paper about sharing information and records related to children and youth. The Task Force worked with the Indiana Office of Technology to develop a mobile application for smartphones and tablets, and a desktop application for computers. These apps contain most of the *Guide*'s contents in a portable, graphic, and user-friendly format.

# Members

**Dr. Jerome Adams, M.D.**

Indiana State Health Commissioner

**Christine Blessinger**

Executive Director

Indiana Department of Correction, Division of  
Youth Services

**Mary Beth Bonaventura**

Director

Indiana Department of Child Services

**Jason Dudich**

Director

Indiana State Budget Agency

**Rep. David Frizzell**

State Representative

District 93

**John R. Hammond IV**

Policy Director

Office of the Governor

**Curtis Hill**

Indiana Attorney General

**Sen. Erin Houchin**

State Senator

District 47

**Sen. Tim Lanane**

State Senator

District 25

**Larry Landis**

Executive Director

Indiana Public Defender Council

**Susan Lightfoot**

Chief Probation Officer

Henry County Probation Department

**Jennifer McCormick**

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Kevin Moore**

Director

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

**David Powell**

Executive Director

Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

**Hon. Loretta Rush**

Chief Justice of Indiana

**Rep. Vanessa Summers**

State Representative

District 99

**Dr. Jennifer Walthall**

Secretary

Family and Social Services Administration

**Mary Willis**

Chief Administrative Officer

Indiana Supreme Court

Office of Judicial Administration

# About the Commission

Legislation establishing the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) went into effect on July 1, 2013. This 18-member Commission consists of leadership from all three branches of state government [IC 2-5-36].

## Membership

- (1) One (1) legislative member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (2) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- (3) One (1) legislative member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
- (4) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (5) The superintendent of public instruction.
- (6) The director of the department of child services.
- (7) One (1) judge or justice with experience in juvenile law appointed by the chief justice of Indiana to serve on the commission for a period of four (4) years.
- (8) The executive director of the prosecuting attorneys council of Indiana.
- (9) The executive director of the public defender council of Indiana.
- (10) The secretary of family and social services.
- (11) The state health commissioner.
- (12) The director of the department of correction division of youth services.
- (13) One (1) representative of the juvenile probation system, appointed by the chief justice of Indiana for a period of four (4) years.
- (14) The director of the office of management and budget, or the director of the state budget agency, as selected by the governor.
- (15) A member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the governor.
- (16) The executive director of the division of state court administration.
- (17) The director of the division of mental health and addiction.
- (18) The attorney general, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

## Vulnerable Youth

For the purposes of the CISC, the law defines “vulnerable youth” as a child served by:

- (A) the department of child services;
- (B) the office of the secretary of family and social services;
- (C) the department of correction; or
- (D) a juvenile probation department.

## **CISC DUTIES<sup>1</sup>**

- (1) Study and evaluate the following:
  - (A) Access to services for vulnerable youth.
  - (B) Availability of services for vulnerable youth.
  - (C) Duplication of services for vulnerable youth.
  - (D) Funding of services available for vulnerable youth.
  - (E) Barriers to service for vulnerable youth.
  - (F) Communication and cooperation by agencies concerning vulnerable youth.
  - (G) Implementation of programs or laws concerning vulnerable youth.
  - (H) The consolidation of existing entities that serve vulnerable youth.
  - (I) Data from state agencies relevant to evaluating progress, targeting efforts, and demonstrating outcomes.
  - (J) Crimes of sexual violence against children.
  - (K) The impact of social networking web sites, cellular telephones and wireless communications devices, digital media, and new technology on crimes against children.
- (2) Review and make recommendations concerning pending legislation.
- (3) Promote information sharing concerning vulnerable youth across the state.
- (4) Promote best practices, policies, and programs.
- (5) Cooperate with:
  - (A) other child focused commissions;
  - (B) the judicial branch of government;
  - (C) the executive branch of government;
  - (D) stakeholders; and
  - (E) members of the community.
- (6) Submit a report not later than July 1 of each year regarding the commission's work during the previous year. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana.

The CISC may also:

- (1) Request information or a presentation from an agency involved with vulnerable youth.
- (2) Request and review outcome data from an agency related to vulnerable youth.
- (3) Receive information from experts concerning vulnerable youth.

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<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to HEA 1369-2016, not later than November 1, 2016, the commission shall: (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections. The commission shall submit a report, not later than December 1, 2016, regarding the commission's work required under this subsection. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6. This subsection expires January 1, 2018.

# Mission and Vision

**Mission:** To improve the status of children in Indiana.

**Vision:** Every child in Indiana will have a safe and nurturing environment and be afforded opportunities to grow into a healthy and productive adult.

## Priorities

- Child Safety & Services
- Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Educational Outcomes

## Organizational Model

The CISC organizational model consists of a chairperson, an executive committee, commission members, committees, and task forces. Senator Erin Houchin is the current chairperson of the CISC. The Executive Branch will chair the CISC in 2018, followed by the Judicial Branch in 2019.

### **Executive Committee:**

The five-member Executive Committee consists of the three rotating chairs and two at-large members. The Executive Committee was established to plan for continuity and to maintain the effectiveness of the CISC. The Executive Committee met on: July 12, August 19, September 7, October 11, November 2 and November 30, 2016; and January 3, January 26, March 7, April 26 and June 21, 2017.

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### ***Executive Committee Members***

*Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services*

*Rep. David Frizzell, State Representative, District 93*

*John R. Hammond, IV, Policy Director, Office of the Governor*

*Sen. Erin Houchin, State Senator, District 47*

*Hon. Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana*

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## *Child Services Oversight Committee*

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**Representative Wendy McNamara, Chair**

<http://www.in.gov/children/2381.htm>

### **Duties:**

- Review bi-annual data reports from the Department of Child Services (DCS)
- Review annual reports from the DCS Ombudsman
- Make recommendations to the CISC

### **Priorities:**

To support the well-being of Hoosier children by strengthening the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS).

### **Members:**

**Mary Beth Bonaventura**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Jolene Bracale**, Indiana Department of Education; **Leslie Dunn**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Honorable Stephen Galvin**, Monroe Circuit Court; **Larry Landis**, Indiana Public Defender Council; **Rep. Kevin Mahan**; **Sean McCrindle**, Bashor Children's Home; **Sen. Frank Mrvan**; **Suzanne O'Malley**, Indiana Prosecuting Attorney Council.

### **Meetings:**

The Committee met on April 12, 2016, January 11 and June 20, 2017.

### **Highlights:**

The Committee also received reports and presentations from the Department of Child Services, the DCS Ombudsman, and other child serving agencies.

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## *Communications Committee*

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**Kathryn Dolan, Chair, Chief Public Information Officer, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Communication, Education & Outreach**

<http://www.in.gov/children/2382.htm>

### **Duties:**

- Develop processes for improved information sharing among Commission members and between Commission members and their agencies,
- Develop and implementation of a comprehensive Communication Plan
- Promote the work of the CISC through the media and other outlets
- Identify ways for CISC to access reports of other organizations doing work in similar areas as CISC
- Promote CISC to the legislature as the preferred entity for vetting potential legislation related to vulnerable children
- Respond to assignments from the CISC Executive Committee and/or Task Forces
- Work with CISC staff to develop and disseminate the CISC annual report

**Members:**

**Jeremy Brilliant**, Director of Communications, Indiana Attorney General's Office; **Kristen Casper**, Legislative Liaison, Indiana Public Defender Council; **Jim Gavin**, Communications Director, Family and Social Services Administration; **Isaac Randolph**, Communications Director, Indiana Department of Correction; **James Wide**, Communications Director, Indiana Department of Child Services.

**Meetings:**

The Committee met on April 20, May 18 and June 12, 2017.

**Highlights**

The newly formed Communication Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to communication on behalf of the Commission, and to begin development a comprehensive strategic communication plan. Members promoted the job description for the new Executive Director via government websites and agency Twitter feeds, and several members attended the May 10, 2017 Commission meeting.

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*Data Sharing and Mapping Committee*  
Formerly Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force

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**Lilia Judson, Co-Chair**, Interim Executive Director, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration  
(until October 2016)

**Julie Whitman, Co-Chair**, Vice President, Programs, Indiana Youth Institute  
<http://www.in.gov/children/2344.htm>

**Duties:**

- Review the CISC strategic plan and work with Task Forces to provide data sharing & mapping services needed to implement the objectives of the strategic plan
- Respond to assignments from the CISC Executive Committee and/or Task Forces
- Submit an annual report before May 1 of each year to the CISC

**Members:**

**Tony Barker**, Indiana Office of Technology; **Sirrilla Blackmon**, Division of Mental Health & Addiction, Family and Social Services Administration; **Michael Commons**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Mary DePrez**, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration; **Matthew Hagenbush**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Leah Hemze-Mills**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Jeff Hudnall**, Indiana Network of Knowledge; **Devon McDonald**, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; **Kevin Moore**, Division of Mental Health & Addiction, Family and Social Services Administration; **David Murtaugh**, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; **Deward Neely**, Indiana Office of Technology; **Sarah Schelle**, Indiana Department of Correction; **Barbara Seitz de Martinez**, Indiana Prevention Resource Center; **Susan Smith**, Casey Family Programs; **Lisa Thompson**, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration; **Doris Tolliver**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Joshua Towns**, Indiana Department of Education (2016); **Don Travis**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Tamara Weaver**, Office of the Indiana Attorney General.

**Meetings:**

The Committee met on March 23 and April 27, 2017.

**Highlights:**

The Committee worked with stakeholders from the state agencies comprising the Commission, as well as other subject matter experts, to complete the research and writing of the *Information Sharing Guide*, a comprehensive 204-page white paper on sharing information and records related to children and youth. The Committee worked with the Indiana Office of Technology to develop a mobile application for smartphones and tablets and a desktop application for computers; these applications contain most of the *Guide*'s contents in a portable, graphic, and user-friendly format. The Committee has started to publicize the application and train stakeholders on its use. The completion of and widespread distribution of the *Information Sharing Guide* represents both the culmination of more than two years' work by committee members and a substantial step toward the goal of enabling information sharing when needed and appropriate.

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*Child Safety and Services Task Force*

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**Leslie Hulvershorn**, Co-chair, Medical Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Family and Social Services Administration

**Sam Criss**, Co-chair, Deputy Director, Services & Outcomes, Indiana Department of Child Services  
<http://www.in.gov/children/2381.htm>

The purpose of the Child Safety and Services Task Force is to support the well-being of Hoosier children by promoting a continuum of prevention and protection services for vulnerable youth and their families.

**Duties:**

- Support efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect
- Support efforts to ensure the safety of children in state care
- Promote programs and services that support older youth with successful transition to independence
- Promote the practice of funding for money follows the family/child
- Study and evaluate barriers to receipt of Medicaid for prevention, early intervention, and treatment
- Promote an improved understanding of the impact of trauma on children and youth and the efficacy of trauma-informed practice
- Coordinate and communicate child safety efforts with Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC)
- Coordinate with the Indiana State Suicide Prevention Advisory Council

**Members:**

**Zachary W. Adams**, IU School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, IUHP Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; **Jane Bisbee**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Rachel Fisher**, Lutherwood; **Corinne Gilchrist**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Maureen Greer**, Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative; **Brent Kent**, President/CEO, Indiana Connected By 25, Inc.; **Gary Parker**, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration; **Sandy Runkle**, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana; **Tami Silverman**, Indiana Youth Institute; **Deanna L. Szyndrowski**, SCAN, Inc.

**Meetings:**

The Task Force met on April 21, 2017.

**Highlights:**

The Chairs of the newly formed Task Force recruited members and solidified commitments for participation. In addition, members were given materials for review including the CISC strategic plan and a task force charter.

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*Educational Outcomes Task Force*

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**Cathy Danyluk**, Co-chair, Indiana Department of Education  
**Melaina Gant**, Co-chair, Indiana Department of Child Services  
<http://www.in.gov/children/2364.htm>

The purpose of the Educational Outcomes Task Force is to promote interagency collaboration to better connect vulnerable youth with appropriate education and career pathways that lead to successful completion of high school equivalency, post-secondary education, job certification, and sustainable employment.

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Explore models to develop an “educational passport” to provide a comprehensive understanding of the educational history of vulnerable children and youth when they move from place to place and school to school.
- Advocate for more and improved wrap-around services co-located in the schools.
- Recommend methods to incentivize schools to help vulnerable youth complete high school.
- Recommend strategies for promoting a positive learning climate for all students to address disproportionality in school discipline practices and to stop the tide of bullying.
- Support efforts to develop alternative educational options and resources for youth not able to survive/thrive in a traditional school setting.
- Study and report on the graduation rate of vulnerable youth.
- Study and report where youth coming out of the juvenile justice system and/or cross-system youth are being educated.

**Members:**

**Melissa Ambre**, Indiana Department of Education; **Mary Beth Buzzard**, Indiana Department of Correction; **William Colteryahn**, Family and Social Services Administration; **Dr. J. T. Coopman**, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents; **Leslie Crist**, Indiana Department of Workforce Development; **Leslie Dunn**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Hon. Nancy Gettinger**, LaPorte Circuit Court; **JauNae Hanger**, Children’s Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana; **Reba James**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Deepali Jani**, Indiana Department of Education; **Debi Ketron**, Indiana Association of Home Educators; **Jonathan Kraeszig**, Family and Social Services Administration; **Susan Lightfoot**, Henry County Probation; **Dr. Susan Lockwood**, Indiana Department of Correction; **Danielle McGrath**, Indiana Economic Development Corporation; **Dr. Terri Miller**, Systems of Care; **Dr. Theresa Ochoa**, Indiana University; **Lenee Reedus-Caron**, Indiana Department of Education; **Shondae Sleet**, Recruitment of Retention of Minority Youth; **Dr. Anita Silverman**, Transitions

Academy; **Jayme Whitaker**, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Family and Social Services Administration; **Jeff Wittman**, Indiana Department of Education.

**Meetings:**

The Task Force met on February 17, March 17, and May 19, 2017.

**Highlights:**

The Task Force added new members and established the following subcommittees: 1) Educational Passport, 2) Wrap-Around Services Co-Located in Schools, and 3) School Discipline and Climate. The Task Force also decided the top three priority areas for subcommittees to address and prioritized objectives for subcommittees.

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*Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth Task Force*  
Formerly Cross-System Youth Task Force

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**Hon. Charles Pratt**, Co-chair, Allen Superior Court

**Don Travis**, Co-Chair, Deputy Director, Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Support, Indiana Department of Child Services

<http://www.in.gov/children/2345.htm>

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force is to serve as a focused, accountable structure to promote interagency communication and collaboration to improve prevention, outcomes and address the unique and complex needs of Juvenile Justice and/or cross-system involved youth.

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Advocate for increased availability of and access to emergency shelter care and alternative therapeutic placements
- Support the enhancement of services across the spectrum (in-home and residential)
- Support efforts to decrease youth violence, including assessing the root causes of youth involved in violent crimes and/or crime involving weapons
- Study and make recommendations on services to address the complex needs of runaway and missing children.
- Study and evaluate whether “status offenders” should be removed from Delinquency code and moved to CHINS code (in collaboration with Child Safety & Services Task Force)
- Support development and/or funding for innovative and effective youth programming through expansion and increased funding of the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council and other funding sources
- Support the on-going efforts of the Commercially Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) workgroup in addressing the identification of exploited juveniles and the coordination of services related to juvenile victims of human trafficking.

**Members:**

**Jeff Bercovitz**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Sirrilla Blackmon**, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Family and Social Services Administration; **Christine Blessinger**, Indiana Department of Correction; **James (Mike) Goodwin**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Cathy Graham**, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy; **JauNae Hanger**, Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana, Indiana State Bar

Association; **Kory George**, Chief Probation Officer, Wayne County Probation; **Jane Seigel**, Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council; **Nancy Wever**, Indiana Office of Court Services; **Dan Schroeder**, Public Defender, Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division; **Coleen Connor**, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Tippecanoe County.

### **Meetings:**

The Task Force met on August 10, September 22, and November 2, 2016; March 31 and April 28, 2017.

### **Highlights:**

The Cross-System Task Force examined the issue of Community Corrections as it applies to juvenile justice programming and funding. The Task Force made recommendations to the Commission that included increased representation on community corrections boards to support juvenile justice interests (under IC 11-12-2-2), and greater funding for juvenile community corrections grants but not at the expense of current adult community corrections grants. After the Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth Task Force was launched, the membership of the task force was revised. The objectives of the Task Force were reviewed and prioritized. Additionally, the Task Force reworded a few of the objectives in addition to adding Human Trafficking as an objective. The Task Force established a subcommittee to review the array of services that are offered to the juvenile justice population.

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*Mental Health & Substance Abuse Task Force*  
Formerly Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force

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**Senator Randy Head**, Co-chair

**Sirrilla Blackmon**, Co-Chair, Deputy Director of Children's Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction

<http://www.in.gov/children/2358.htm>

The purpose of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force is to support creative and effective methods of improving assessment, access to treatment, and wrap-around resources for vulnerable youth, and households in need of mental health and substance abuse services.

### Task Force Objectives

- Explore policy change to promote integration of behavioral health and primary care for children
- Identify and promote evidence-based and other effective supports and services that reduce youth mental health issues and substance abuse
- Support effective alternative locations, modalities and treatments for substance abuse and mental health services
- Support efforts to increase the number of mental health and substance abuse providers; improve service coordination to simplify delivery of services for children and their families
- Support development of models to identify youth at-risk for substance abuse and mental health issues
- Engage with Governor's Commission to Combat Drug Abuse to address issues of children's use of prescription drugs and children being raised by parents suffering from addiction

- Support efforts to ensure access to care / treatment for youth and parents with substance abuse issues, including inpatient, outpatient, and rural coverage as well as services for youth after release from JJ / DYS

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#### Members

**Dr. Leslie Hulverson**, MD-Indiana University Psychiatry; **Sarah Sparks**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Cathy Boggs**, Community Health Network; **Marc Kniola**, Indiana Department of Correction; **Carol Farzetta**, Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning, Family and Social Services Administration; **C.J. Davis**, Four County Counseling; **Mindy Goodpaster**, Marion County Commission on Youth; **Jeff Wittman**, Indiana Department of Education; **Carol Satre**, MSW, Field Coordinator/Teacher Practitioner; **Cathy Graham**, Indiana Association of Resources & Child Advocacy; **Carey Wong**, Child Advocates; **Madeline Zielinski**, Youth M.O.V.E. Indiana; **Kristina Johnson**, Director of Community Initiatives; **Cathy Robinson**, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, Family and Social Services Administration

Meetings. The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force met August 18, 2016 and October 13, 2016. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force met April 10, and June 12, 2017.

#### **Highlights:**

The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force was divided into five subcommittees, each having assigned duties as outlined in the Commission’s suggested priorities. The Task Force received testimony from subject matter experts from rural and urban backgrounds; identified four areas where legislation is needed (reciprocity, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, and telemedicine); and worked with the Indiana General Assembly to propose legislation on the four areas. Legislation was ultimately passed relating to issues of license reciprocity, suicide prevention programming, and telemedicine.

The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force was reconstituted as the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force. Serrilla Blackmon was appointed as co-chair to serve alongside Senator Randy Head. The Task Force will establish a timeline to fully explore objectives, analyze data, speak to subject matter experts, and propose recommendations to the Commission.

# Strategic Plan 2017-2019

The CISC approved a three-year Strategic Plan on December 7, 2016. The strategic plan recognizes four strategic priorities: (1) Child Safety and Services; (2) Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth; (3) Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and (4) Educational Outcomes. Each priority has a corresponding task force and a strategic goal. The objectives were determined by CISC members, task force members, and staff.

## Priorities, Goals and Objectives

- 1. Child Safety & Services.** Support the well-being of Hoosier children by promoting a continuum of prevention and protection services for vulnerable youth and their families.
  - 1.1 Support efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect
  - 1.2 Support efforts to ensure the safety of children in state care
  - 1.3 Promote programs and services that support older youth with successful transition to independence
  - 1.4 Promote the practice of funding for money follows the family / child
  - 1.5 Study and evaluate barriers to receipt of Medicaid for prevention, early intervention, and treatment
  - 1.6 Promote an improved understanding of the impact of trauma on children and youth and the efficacy of trauma-informed practice
  - 1.7 Coordinate and communicate child safety efforts with Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC)
  - 1.8 Coordinate with the Indiana State Suicide Prevention Advisory Council
  
- 2. Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth.** Promote interagency communication and collaboration to improve prevention, outcomes, and address the unique and complex needs of Juvenile Justice and/or cross-system involved youth.
  - 2.1 Advocate for increased availability of and access to emergency shelter care and alternative therapeutic placements
  - 2.2 Support the enhancement of services across the spectrum (in-home and residential)
  - 2.3 Support efforts to decrease youth violence, including assessing the root causes of youth involved in violent crimes and/or crime involving weapons
  - 2.4 Study and make recommendations on services to address the complex needs of runaway children, missing children, and child victims of human trafficking
  - 2.5 Study and evaluate whether “status offenders” should be removed from Delinquency code and moved to CHINS code
  - 2.6 Support funding for innovative youth programming through expansion and increased funding of the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

**3. Mental Health & Substance Abuse.** Support creative and effective methods of improving assessment, access to treatment, and wrap-around resources for vulnerable youth and households in need of mental health and substance abuse services.

3.1 Explore policy change to promote integration of behavioral health and primary care for children

3.2 Identify and promote evidence-based and other effective supports and services that reduce youth mental health issues and substance abuse

3.3 Support effective alternative locations, modalities and treatments for substance abuse and mental health services

3.4 Support efforts to increase the number of mental health and substance abuse providers; improve service coordination to simplify delivery of services for children and their families

3.5 Support development of models to identify youth at-risk for substance abuse and mental health issues

3.6 Engage with Governor's Commission to Combat Drug Abuse to address issues of children's use of prescription drugs and children being raised by parents suffering from addiction

3.7 Support efforts to ensure access to care / treatment for youth and parents with substance abuse issues, including inpatient, outpatient, and rural coverage as well as services for youth after release from JJ / DYS

**4. Educational Outcomes.** Promote interagency collaboration to better connect vulnerable youth with appropriate education and career pathways that lead to successful completion of high school equivalency, post- secondary education, job certification, and sustainable employment

4.1 Explore models to develop an "educational passport" to provide a comprehensive understanding of the educational history of vulnerable children and youth when they move from place to place and school to school.

4.2 Advocate for more and improved wrap-around services co-located in the schools.

4.3 Recommend methods to incentivize schools to help vulnerable youth complete high school.

4.4 Recommend strategies for promoting a positive learning climate for all students to address disproportionality in school discipline practices and to stop the tide of bullying.

4.5 Support efforts to develop alternative educational options and resources for youth not able to survive/thrive in a traditional school setting.

4.6 Study and report on the graduation rate of vulnerable youth.

4.7 Study and report where youth coming out of the juvenile justice system and/or cross-system youth are being educated.

As part of the strategic planning process, a Child Safety and Services Task Force was established. The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force was transitioned into a standing committee of the CISC. The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force was renamed the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force and the Cross-System Youth Task Force was renamed the Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Task Force. The Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force was sunset due to the extensive work being done in this area by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC).

During the strategic planning process, the CISC identified the need for an executive director to help carry out the work of the CISC. The CISC approved the executive director position announcement on December 7, 2016. H.E.A. 1080 passed during 2017 legislative session authorizing the CISC to appoint an executive director. The position announcement was posted on April 26, 2017 and applications were accepted through May 24, 2017. An interview team representing each branch has been named to selected candidates for interview. The interview team will interview candidates in June/July and present recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will select the most qualified candidate and report the recommendation to the CISC for approval at the August 16, 2017 meeting.

## Operational Plan

The operational plan revolves around the CISC's internal organization and communication. The operational plan includes five priorities: (A) Organizational Structure; (B) Task Force Assignments & Workflow; (C) Communication & Collaboration; (D) Policy Recommendations & Legislation; and (5) Outcomes & Impact.

### Priority A: Organizational Structure

- A1: Ensure CISC has the executive staff support needed to achieve the CISC mission
- A2: Ensure Task Forces and standing committees understand their charge, purpose, roles and responsibilities

### Priority B: Task Force Assignments, Workflow & Policy Recommendations

- B1: Formalize process to establish whether proposed projects are within the scope of CISC
- B2: Formalize process of Task Force Assignments and Policy Recommendations

### Priority C: Communication & Collaboration

- C1: Promote the work of the CISC and develop processes for improved information sharing among Commission members and between Commission members and their agencies
- C2: Identify, leverage, and add value to work being conducted by other organizations involved with vulnerable children and youth

### Priority D: Outcomes & Impact

- D1: Develop processes to measure and track outcomes and impact of CISC
- D2: Ensure cultural competence is demonstrated in the work of the CISC and its Task Forces

Charters have been developed for each task force that identifies the charge, purpose, roles and responsibilities. Processes have been developed to establish whether proposed projects are within the scope of the CISC and to formalize the process of task force assignments and policy recommendations. A Communications Committee has been established. The Committee is working on a comprehensive communication plan.

# Reports and Recommendations

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1369 required the CISC to (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections. The CISC Executive Committee requested the Cross-System Youth Task Force and the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana to work collaboratively to study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, and make recommendations to the CISC. Representatives from the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee and the Cross-System Youth Task Force met between May 6, and November 2, 2016, to develop recommendations. The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council also met to review the issue of funding juvenile community corrections as raised in HEA 1369. On December 7, 2016, the consensus recommendations of the JJIC and Cross System Youth Task Force were presented to the CISC, and the CISC voted to endorse the following recommendations:

- (1) Representation on local community corrections boards should be increased to support juvenile justice interests, or counties should be given the authority and discretion to establish separate juvenile community corrections boards.
- (2) Funding should be increased or new funding authorized from the Department of Correction that is specifically targeted for juvenile justice beyond the current grant funding level. Such allocations should not reduce or impair the funding of adult community corrections.
- (3) The state should provide significant fiscal resources to the local juvenile courts and counties to develop and sustain innovative, evidence-based juvenile justice programs including the dual status initiative.

## Information Sharing Guide and Mobile Application

<https://publicaccess.courts.in.gov/isg>

The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force worked with stakeholders from CISC member agencies and other subject matter experts to complete the research and writing of the *Indiana Youth Information Sharing Guide*, a comprehensive 204-page white paper about sharing information and records related to children and youth. After a review by his staff attorneys, then-Attorney General Gregory Zoeller endorsed the accuracy of the *Guide*'s legal contents. Because of the *Guide*'s length, funding was secured to work with the Indiana Office of Technology to develop a mobile application for smartphones and tablets, and a desktop application for computers. These apps contain most of the *Guide*'s contents in a portable, graphic, and user-friendly format. The apps are free and are available for iOS and Android devices at those platforms' respective app stores.

The Committee envisions the app will be used by DCS family case managers and DCS attorneys, parents' attorneys, youths' attorneys, educators, health care professionals, substance abuse and mental health counselors, law enforcement officers, probation and corrections officers, GAL/CASAs, and court staff to quickly determine which records can be shared, under what circumstances, when, and how. This, in turn, promises to reduce delays in case disposition times due to the parties' inability to obtain documents necessary to resolve the case.

The app also contains sample documents, such as release of information forms, and allows users to both print the forms and send them via email or text messaging.

Committee members and staff have started to publicize the app and train stakeholders on the app. The completion and distribution of the *Indiana Youth Information Sharing Guide* represents both the culmination of more than two years' work by Committee members and staff, and a substantial step toward the goal of enabling information sharing when needed and appropriate.

## Meetings

Meeting agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and other resources are posted on the website: <http://www.in.gov/children>. All meetings are open to the public.

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### *Meeting Highlights*

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#### August 17, 2016 - Meeting Materials

The meeting focused on strategic planning, which consisted of identifying strategic priorities and goals, and developing objectives. The CISC discussed the addition of Mental Health as a CISC priority. There was consensus that mental health needed to be a bigger emphasis for the CISC work. Although several task forces were working on mental health issues, a more focused approach is necessary to avoid duplication. It was decided that the Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force will be established as a permanent subcommittee of CISC, and the Child Services Oversight Committee would remain active.

#### September 21, 2016 - Meeting Materials

The strategic planning process continued. Breakout groups discussed methodology and objectives for the CISC's operational priorities. Objectives for the strategic plan were prioritized. The CISC discussed the need for a standing communication committee and the hiring of a CISC Executive Director.

#### December 7, 2016 - Meeting Materials

The proposed strategic plan was presented. The plan recognizes four strategic priorities: 1) Child Safety and Services; (2) Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth; (3) Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and (4) Educational Outcomes. Each priority has a corresponding task force and a strategic goal. The objectives listed in the plan for each task force were determined by the CISC members, task force members, and staff. These objectives were all derived from the CISC's statutorily defined duties and responsibilities.

The CISC also decided there was a need for an operational plan to handle the CISC's internal organization and communication. The operational plan included five priorities: (1) Organizational Structure; (2) Task Force Assignments & Workflow; (3) Communication & Collaboration; (4) Policy Recommendations & Legislation; and (5) Outcomes & Impact. The CISC unanimously approved the three-year strategic plan and the operational plan. Also approved was the CISC Executive Director job description. The Cross-System Youth Task Force presented recommendations regarding HEA 1369, which discusses funding for juvenile community corrections and the composition of local community corrections boards. The recommendations of the task force requested new money be apportioned for juvenile community corrections not to be diverted from adult community corrections funding, that juvenile funds be a separate line item, that flexibility be given to create juvenile

community corrections boards or expand existing community corrections boards, and innovative juvenile community corrections programs be supported with any new funding. The recommendations were approved.

Dr. Jennifer Walthall, co-chair, Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force, updated the CISC on the work of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC). She also provided information on Indiana's infant mortality rate, and reviewed ongoing ISDH efforts on infant mortality and child health.

The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force reported on their 2017 legislative initiatives which include reciprocity, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention and telemedicine. The Department of Child Services presented their 2017 legislative agenda, which included the duty to report child abuse and neglect, safe haven clarification, driver's licenses for foster youth, children in need of services (CHINS) statute modifications regarding drug-positive newborns, parental drug screens, DCS payment of fees for fingerprint checks for prospective adoptive parents, the restoration of CHINS 3 statute (sexual/other offenses against children), voluntary termination of parental rights by a licensed child placing agency, concurrent permanency planning, statutory authority to report children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, assessment information for children of military parents, and restricted driver's license matters. The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force provided a demonstration of the Information Sharing Guide Application. A survey was done of child welfare and delinquency stakeholders. Many did not know what information they could share with different entities. When they did share information, it was based upon prior relationships, as opposed to simply being based on the law. The ISG intends to clarify which data can be shared and with whom actors can share it.

#### February 15, 2017 - Meeting Materials

Each CISC member provided an overview of their agency and a description of how their agency serves vulnerable youth. A brief update on the operational plan was provided. Forms have been developed for the CISC that evaluate whether a project is within the CISC's scope and outline the process for assignment of work and policy recommendations. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) gave a presentation on children's mental health. There are gaps throughout the state in access to mental health services for children. Information was provided on the System of Care program and substance abuse prevention efforts. DMHA funded initiatives were summarized, including Baby and Me Tobacco Free, Project Lead (a peer mentoring project), the Indiana Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking, and the State Epidemiological Workgroup.

The Department of Child Services provided an update on pending legislation. The CISC agreed to post safe sleep information on the CISC website, and the Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force provided a demonstration of the Information Sharing Guide Application.

#### May 10, 2017 - Meeting Materials

The meeting included a presentation on human trafficking screening tools and a synopsis of the work of the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault. The Indiana Public Defender Council also reported on the Smart on Juvenile Justice initiative. Updates were given on the CISC operational plan, and on legislation. The CISC Executive Director hiring proposal was presented. The CISC approved adding human trafficking as sub-committee of the Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Task Force.